

REMARKS

By way of the amendment instructions above, the originally presented claims have been amended and new claims presented to define subject matter to which the applicants are deemed entitled and to provide a more meaningful first action on the merits. All amended and new claims are fully supported by the original specification and, as such, now questions of "new matter" under 35 USC §132 are believed to have been raised.

In this regard, the set of claims presented above include independent claims 1, 20, 30, 43 and 47. Prior claims 2, 9-10, 14-15, and 17 have been canceled. Therefore, following entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 3-8, 11-13, 16 and 18-48 will be pending herein for which favorable action on the merits is awaited.

With regard to independent claim 1, it will be observed that the limitations of prior claim 2 have been incorporated therein. In addition, claim 1 requires that the wavelength be 193 nm. See in this regard, page 2, lines 5-6 and 18-19 for support.)

New independent claim 20 is substantively similar to original claim 1, but requires that the immersion fluid is an alkane. (See page 2, lines 25-26 for support.) Claim 20 als specifically requires that the additive comprises insoluble nano particles. (See, e.g., original claim 6 and page 2, lines 25-30 for support.)

Independent claim 30 provides a method to produce microchips by using immersion lithography showing further resolution enhancement (page 2, lines 12-14). The method of claim 30 comprises steps d) and e) whereby the refractive index of the immersion fluid is measured (directly or indirectly) and adjusted at a predetermined value. (See page 7, lines 26-32 for support.) Page 8, lines 10-15 support the claim language of steps b), c) and f) in claim 30.

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The use of alkanes as an immersion fluid, and especially alkanes comprised of 6-10 carbon atoms finds support on page 2, lines 24-26.

The independent claims directed to the immersion fluid *pe se* (i.e., claims 43 and 47) are similarly supported by the passages in the original application cited above.

Fee Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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